Message Text

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R 230059Z FEB 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, EFIS, DR

SUBJECT: US-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MARITIME BOUNDARY

REF: SANTO 832

- 1. DEPT APPRECIATES REPORT REFTEL OF MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND PANIAGUA.
- 1. REFTEL INDICATES THAT PANIAGUA IS INTERESTED IN AN ASSURANCE THAT AGREED US-DOM REP MARITIME BOUNDARY WOULD NOT SERVE AS AN ADDITIONAL RATIONALE FOR CONTINUING US MILITARY PRESENCE ON VIEQUES. SINCE VIEQUES IS ON EASTERN SIDE OF PUERTO RICAN MAINLAND, AND SINCE US-DOM REP BOUNDARY HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE USE A CONFIDENTIAL

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PUERTO RICAN ISLAND IS PUT TO, DEPT CONSIDERS THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE ISSUES. MILITARY USE OF VIEQUES IS A DOMESTIC ISSUE. MARITIME BOUNDARY WITH THE DOM REP IS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE IN WHICH THE USG WILL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE POSITION MOST IN US, INCLUDING PUERTO RICO'S INTEREST

3. DEPT HAS NO HESITATION IN GIVING ASSURANCE TO PANIAGUA THAT THE AGREED BOUNDARY THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING WILL NOT BE USED AS AN ADDITIONAL REASON JUSTIFYING CONTINUED US

MILITARY USE OF VIEQUES. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THE REASON DEPT CAN GIVE THIS ASSURANCE IS THAT THERE IS SIMPLY NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROBLEMS.

4. EMBASSY VIEWS ON THESE POINTS AND THE BEST MEANS OF PRESENTING THEM TO PANIAGUA WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

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